

# Back from 'The Gulf'

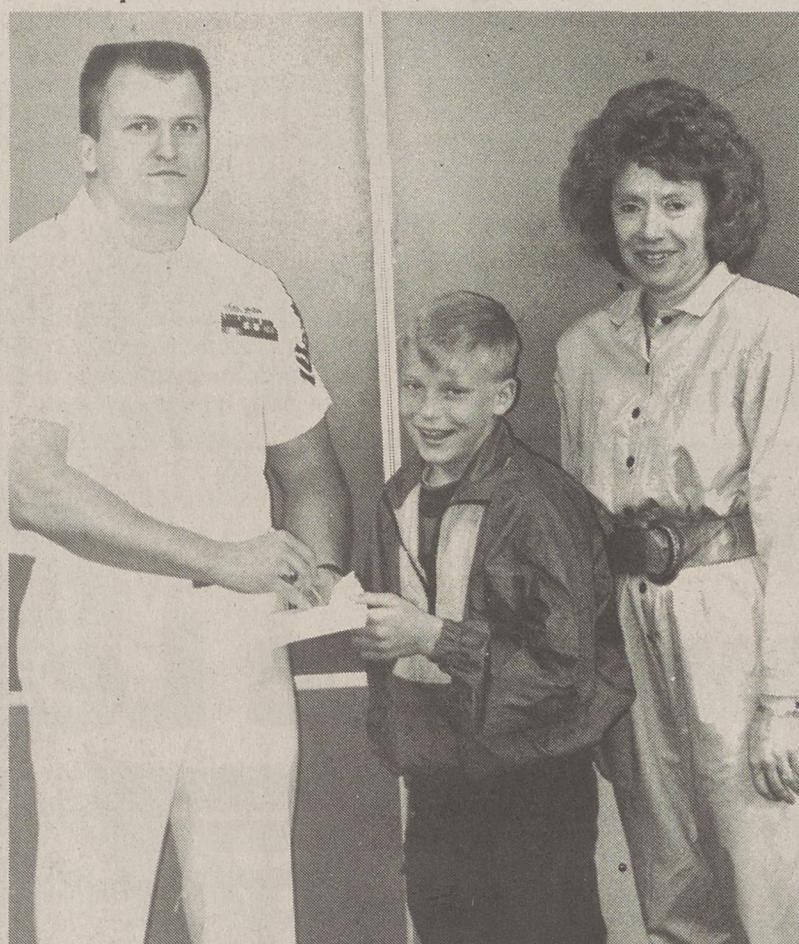
First Class Petty Officer Scott Biddy, 27, visited his former 5th grade teacher Connie Bell and her classroom Monday and talked about his tour of duty in the Persian Gulf.

"This place looks the same to me and Mrs. Bell looks even younger," said Biddy, who was a North School student 16 years ago and graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1982. He has been in the U. S. Navy nearly nine years and expects to make it a career.

Son of Iris Barber Biddy of Kings Mountain and Roy Biddy of Shelby, he was visiting relatives in the area, including his grandmothers, Mrs. J. O. Barber and Mrs. Bessie Biddy of Kings Mountain.

When asked by a student if he would go back to Saudi Arabia if he was called, he said, "absolutely. We stopped the war too soon," said Biddy, who launched tomahawks from the U.S.S. Mississippi, always in sight of land and whose job the 600 member crew was to provide a blockade. The only time he was in port in Saudi Arabia was for 10 days for ship repair work. The threat of terrorism was always very real to the young man who found customs much different, he told the students. "We wouldn't have as much crime in the U. S. if we had public executions like they do in that country, he told the fourth graders.

Biddy, who doubles as a police officer at Virginia Beach, Va. when he's on shore duty at Norfolk, Va., was on the fifth ship of ten in a big homecoming for the USS Kennedy battle group in Norfolk, Va. As 40,000 people packed the pier and around the ships welcoming the service people back from the Gulf.



**VISITS OLD CLASSROOM**-First Class Petty Officer Scott Biddy is welcomed back to his old classroom at North School by Connie Bell, 5th grade teacher, and Mark Roper, a student.

Biddy's fiancee, Tiffany Reid of Norfolk and his mother, Mrs. Iris Biddy, of Kings Mountain, were among the welcoming party. Mrs. Biddy took her first plane trip to meet her son. "Boy was I surprised," he said, to see his mother.

Fifth grader Mark Roper told Biddy his brother, also a sailor, is back from the Gulf and is in Morehead City. Nelson Roper

served with the Marines on the USS Guam, said Roper.

Young Roper asked for Biddy's autograph and the students had plenty of questions for the visitor during the special class meeting in which they said they had kept up with the war activities in current events and had also written service people in the Gulf.

## TECHNOLOGY

From Page 4-B

tually doing the fine trim work that is necessary in building a house. In addition students are instructed in the technical aspects of the job. As a senior, 75% of the class time is given to shop for hands-on experience. A senior may also elect to participate in the cooperative work experience program. This is a program where the student may secure a job in construction or a related field and receive credit for his/her work as well as credit for the class. The student is supervised on the job by the teacher and the Industry Education Coordinator through training plans and work site visits.

Another integral part of the carpentry curriculum is the club activity. All carpentry students are encouraged to join the Vocational Industrial Club of America. Two extremely important elements are learned through VICA. First, through participation in club work, the student is taught valuable leadership skills. This is done through parliamentary procedure development, holding offices both local, district and state, and by learning the responsibilities of a job well done. Second, students are able to compete on the local, district and state level, using the carpentry skills they have learned in the classroom. Some of these competitive events are construction skills, prepared and extemporaneous speeches and others. These competitive events teach leadership skills and also build self-confidence and self-esteem in the stu-

dent.

To become a successful, skilled carpenter, it is recommended that a student should have good manual dexterity, be able to solve arithmetic problems quickly and accurately, and be able to work closely with others. If our nation is going to meet the needs of the construction job market, our youth must take higher math in school, be able to communicate well, both written and oral, and they must be a problem solver.

The employment outlook for carpenters is excellent.

Employment in this area is expected to increase by as much as 24% or 182,000 jobs by the year 2000. This means that if you meet quality standards, you can find a job. Wood, nails, cement and other building materials cannot discern if the person working on them is male or female. This career area is excellent for young women. The pay is good and the jobs will be there. Your future may be in carpentry.

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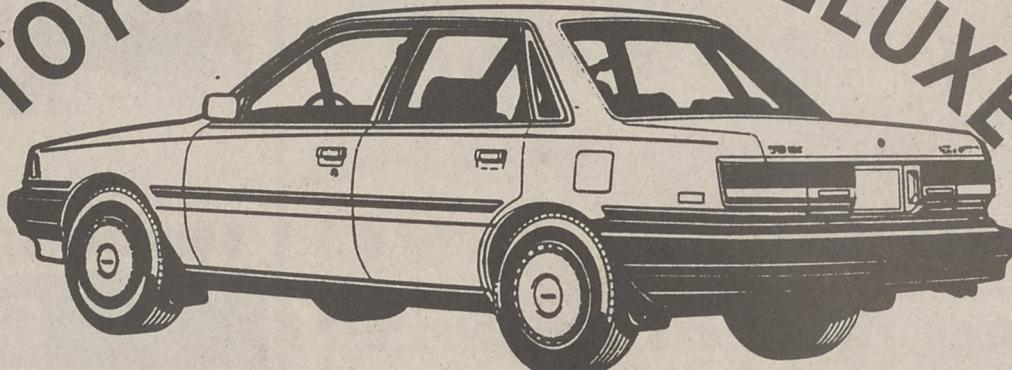
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